

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/938,807

Examiner

Le H. Luu

Applicant(s)

OGAWA, HIDEHARU

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed on 03/08/05 and interview on 07/12/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-8 and 10-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20050714.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

LE HIEN LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

2. Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Raphael A. Valencia on July 12, 2005 to incorporate limitations of claims 3 and 9 into claims 1 and 7 respectively by Examiner Amendment.

3. Delete claims 1-15 and substitute therefor:

-- 1. (Currently Amended) An e-mail server device which manages user information including at least one user, the user information specifying an e-mail address as a public e-mail address owned by the at least one user and another e-mail address as an individual e-mail address owned by the at least one user, and delivers an e-mail to the at least one user specified in the user information, said device comprising:

a receiver which receives e-mails;

a transfer unit which transfers, in a case where an address of the received e-mail is not managed by the e-mail server device but it managed by another e-mail server device, the received e-mail to the another e-mail server device;

an inquiry unit which inquires of the at least one user, in a case where the address of the received e-mail is [[a]] the public e-mail address owned by the user

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specified in the user information managed by the e-mail server device, whether to accept the received e-mail to be delivered from its addresser;

a notification unit which notifies the addresser of the received e-mail that there is no user owning the address of the received e-mail, in a case where the at least one user does not accept the received e-mail to be delivered from the addresser as a result of the inquiry; and

a delivery unit which delivers the received e-mail to the user owning the public e-mail address, in a case where a delivery condition for delivering the e-mail is satisfied; [[.]]

an individual-address selector which selects an individual e-mail address managed by said e-mail address server, in association with the addresser of the e-mail and the user owning the public e-mail address corresponding to the addressee of the received e-mail, in a case where the received e-mail is accepted to be delivered from the addresser as a result of the inquiry;

an individual address informer which informs the addresser of the e-mail about the selected individual e-mail address; and

an individual address recorder which records information representing the user as a target user owning the public e-mail address of the received e-mail and information representing the addresser as an informed-addresser, in association with the selected-individual e-mail address, and

wherein the delivery condition is satisfied, in a case where the address of the received e-mail is the individual e-mail address recorded on said individual address

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recorder and information representing the addresser of the e-mail is recorded as an informed addresser, thereby the delivery unit delivers the e-mail to the user as the target user.

2. (Original) The e-mail server device according to claim 1, further comprising

an allowed-addresser recorder which records information representing the addresser of the received e-mail as an allowed addresser in association with the public e-mail address, in a case where the at least one user accepts the received e-mail to be delivered from the addresser as a result of the inquiry, and

wherein the delivery condition is satisfied, in a case where the information representing the addresser of the received e-mail is recorded as the allowed addresser on said allowed-addresser recorder in association with a public e-mail address of the address of the e-mail.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The e-mail server device according to claim 3, wherein:

said individual address selector selects, as an individual e-mail address, an e-mail address generated by converting characters of the public e-mail address of the received email; and

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the original public e-mail address is generated from the individual e-mail address as a resultant address of the character conversion, thereby achieving character reverse conversion of the individual e-mail address.

5. (Original) The e-mail server device according to claim 4, wherein a predetermined character string is added in a user name of the public e-mail address, thereby achieving the character conversion of the public e-mail address.

6. (Currently Amended) The e-mail server device according to claim 3  
1, further comprising

a rewriting unit which rewrites the public e-mail address owned by the addresser specified in the e-mail into the individual e-mail address owned by the addresser recorded in association with the addresser and the addressee, in a case where rewriting conditions that

(i) the addresser of the received e-mail is the public e-mail address owned by the user specified in the user information managed by said e-mail server device, and that

(ii) the individual address recorder records information representing the addressee of the received e-mail as an informed addresser and information representing the user owning the public e-mail address as a target user, in association with a corresponding individual e-mail address,

are satisfied, and

wherein said transfer unit transfers an e-mail having the address rewritten by the rewriter instead of the received e-mail, in a case where the above rewriting conditions are satisfied.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an e-mail service for managing information regarding at least one user and his/her e-mail address and for sending e-mails to the at least one user, the user information specifying an e-mail address as a public e-mail address owned by the at least one user and another e-mail address as an individual e-mail address owned by the at least one user, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving an e-mail;

transferring the received e-mail to another e-mail server device, in a case where an address of the received e-mail is not managed by said method for managing the e-mail service:

inquiring of the at least one user whether to accept the received e-mail to be delivered, in a case where the address of the received e-mail is a public e-mail address of owned by the at least one user which is managed by said method for providing e-mail service;

informing, in a case where the received e-mail is not accepted to be delivered from an addresser of the e-mail as a result of inquiring of the user, the user of the received e-mail that there is no user owning the address of the received e-mail; and

delivering the received e-mail to a user owning the public e-mail address, in a case where a delivery condition for delivering the received e-mail is satisfied [[.]] ;

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selecting the individual e-mail address managed by said method for providing an email service, in association with the user owning the public e-mail address corresponding to the addressee of the received e-mail and with the addresser of the received e-mail, in a case where the received e-mail is accepted to be delivered from the addresser as a result of the inquiring;

informing the addresser of the received e-mail about the selected individual e-mail address; and

recording information representing the user as a target user owning the public e-mail address corresponding to the addressee of the received e-mail and information representing the addresser as an informed-addresser which is informed about the individual e-mail address, and

wherein the delivery condition is satisfied, in a case where the addressee of the received e-mail is the individual e-mail address recorded at said individual address recording step and where information representing the addresser of the received e-mail is recorded as an informed-addresser, thereby the e-mail is delivered to the user specified as the target user in the recorded information at said delivering step.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of

recording information representing the addresser of the received e-mail as an allowed addresser, in association with the public e-mail address, in a case where e-

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mails are accepted to be delivered from the addresser of the received e-mail as a result of the inquiry, and

wherein the delivery condition is satisfied, in a case where information specifying the addresser of the received e-mail is recorded as an allowed addresser in association with the public e-mail address corresponding to the addressee of the received e-mail at said the information recording step.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9 7, wherein:

a resultant address created by converting a character code of the public e-mail address corresponding to the addressee of the received e-mail is selected as an individual e-mail address at said individual-address selecting step; and

the original public e-mail address is generated from the individual e-mail address as a resultant address of the character conversion, thereby achieving character reverse conversion of the individual e-mail address.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the character conversion is so performed that a resultant address including a predetermined character string in a user name of the public e-mail address is obtained.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9 7, further comprising the step of



rewriting the public e-mail address of the addresser specified in the e-mail into the individual e-mail address of the addresser recorded in association with the addresser and the addressee, in a case where rewriting conditions that

(i) the addresser of the received e-mail is the public e-mail address owned by the user specified in the user information managed by said e-mail sever device, and that

(ii) information representing the addressee of the received e-mail as an informed addresser and information representing the user owning the public e-mail address as a target user are recorded at said individual-address recording step, in association with a corresponding individual e-mail address, are satisfied, and

wherein an e-mail having the address rewritten by the rewriter instead of the received e-mail is transferred at said transferring step, in a case where the above rewriting conditions are satisfied.

13. (Original) A computer readable information recording medium which records a program for controlling a computer to function as said e-mail server device according to claim 1.

14. (Original) A computer readable information recording medium which records a program for controlling a computer to execute the method for providing an e-mail service, according to claim 7.

15. (Original) The computer readable information recording medium according to claim 13, wherein said information recording medium is a computer disk, a

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floppy disk, a hard disk, a magneto-optical disk, a digital video disk, a magnetic tape, or a semiconductor memory.

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4. Pursuant to MPEP 606.01, the title has been changed to read:

-- AN EMAIL SERVER SYSTEM USING PUBLIC AND INDIVIDUAL EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR FILTERING UNWANTED EMAIL MESSAGES --

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

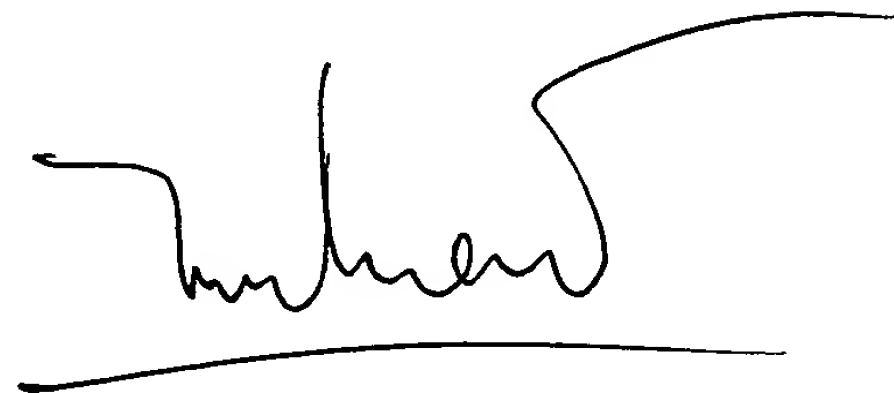
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Le H. Luu whose telephone number is 571-272-3884.

The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Le Hien Luu', is written over a horizontal line.

LE HIEN LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

July 14, 2005